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April 9, 1985

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Re: Preliminary Environmental Review
Park Co. Septage/Sludge Land
Application Site

City of Livingston, 414 E. Callender, Livingston
Board of Co. Commissioners, Courthouse, Livingston
Joe Meek, Co. Sanitarian, 414 E. Callender, Livingston
✓ Harold Chamber, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Bldg., Helena
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604,
the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning the Park
County septage/sludge land application site.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform
all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of
the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have
a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary
Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15)
days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within
the allotted time.

Sincerely,

James E. Leiter
Solid & Hazardous Waste Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

JEL:ao
Encls.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences/Solid and Hazardous Waste

Project or Application Park County Septage/Sludge Land Application Site

Description of Project The Park County Board of Commissioners has applied for a solid waste management system license for a 160-acre parcel commonly known as the "county windfarm." The parcel proposed for licensing is located in the W₂NE₄ of Section 17, Township 2 South, Range 10 East. The site will be used by the City of Livingston for land application of dried sludge and by licensed septic tank pumpers for land application of septic tank pumpings.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats			X			X
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			X
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue			X			X
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy				X		
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows			X			X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Park County Health Department

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. _____

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS No EIS necessary

PER Prepared by: James E. Leiter

Date: April 9, 1985

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
Park County Sludge/Septage Land Application Site

Municipal wastewater treatment sludge and residential septage are frequently utilized as a soil conditioner and applied to agricultural land as sources for moisture, nutrients and natural organic materials which enhance crop production. Properly applied, land application presents negligible impact to the environment.

As part of the solid waste management system license, the Park County Commissioners have included an operation and maintenance plan for use of the "windfarm site" for disposal/utilization of these waste products. Each septic tank pumper desiring to use the site will have to meet the following requirements for use of the disposal site:

- 1] Each pumper must meet the requirements and be licensed by the State of Montana.
- 2] Each pumper will have to apply for a permit to use the facility on an annual basis, and will be charged a fee for use appropriate for his business.
- 3] Keys will be required for access to the site and the pumper will be responsible for unlocking and locking the gate when he/she uses it.
- 4] Spreader bars will be required to insure that the sludge/septage is uniformly applied. This should enhance the waste materials' value as a soil conditioner and help minimize odors or other nuisance conditions.
- 5] The pumpers will be limited to "one pass" or one application of septage or sludge per area per season. This will help insure that a uniform limited amount of moisture, nutrients and organic matter is applied for any given area.
- 6] Vehicles using the site will be inspected and approved by the local sanitarian, and will be required to annually show evidence of proper insurance coverage.
- 7] Privy vault pumpings or other non-septage wastes will be strictly prohibited.

In addition to the requirements placed on the pumpers, regular inspections of the site will be conducted by State of Montana personnel and the local sanitarian to insure proper use of the facility.

Specific impacts from the use of the "windfarm" are addressed as follows:

Potential Impact on Physical Environment (See checklist)

- 1] Terrestrial & Aquatic Life & Habitats: Since the windfarm is basically unused except for occasional maintenance of the wind generators, increased vehicle traffic may have a very minor impact on species of small rodents and insects which inhabit the parcel. Improved soil fertility may enhance the populations of some groups of soil insects and animals. There should be no effect on aquatic life or habitats.

3] Geology & Soil Quality, Stability and Moisture: Addition of small amounts of septage or sludge will have only minor effect in this area. Any effect should be positive, however, tending to increase the fertility and structure of the native soils. Since the "windfarm" is not actively farmed, the value of the added soil conditioner will not be fully realized.

4] Vegetation Cover, Quantity & Quality: Again, the added nutrients, moisture and organic material will tend to positively influence native vegetation, but should not have anything more than a minor effect.

5] Aesthetics: During some limited weather conditions, there may be minor noticeable odors generated from the sludge/septage. It would be extremely unusual for the odors to be detectable off site. Given the low precipitation rates and wind conditions at the site, the waste material will generally dry to a non-odor producing state very quickly.

Potential Impacts on Human Environment

3] Local & State Tax Base & Tax Revenue: Because a user fee will be charged each pumper, some additional revenue will be realized by the county. The relatively small amount of revenue should be offset, however, by the county's use of manpower for inspections of the facility and the minimum maintenance required.

14] Transportation Networks & Traffic Flows: Since pumper trucks will be using the new facility, there will be some increased traffic on the access roads to the windfarm site. Such an increase should be limited to very few vehicle trips/day, however.